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The
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Has received an application for a patent for a new and useful invention. The title and description of the invention are enclosed. The requirements of law have been complied with, and it has been determined that a patent on the invention shall be granted under the law.

Therefore, this

United States Patent

Grants to the person(s) having title to this patent the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States of America or importing the invention into the United States of America for the term set forth below, subject to the payment of maintenance fees as provided by law.

If this application was filed prior to June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is the longer of seventeen years from the date of grant of this patent or twenty years from the earliest effective U.S. filing date of the application, subject to any statutory extension.

If this application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is twenty years from the U.S. filing date, subject to any statutory extension. If the application contains a specific reference to an earlier filed application or applications under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the term of the patent is twenty years from the date on which the earliest application was filed, subject to any statutory extension.

J. Todd Pichini

Acting Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Sharna J. Cooper
Attest



US005975892A

United States Patent [19]

Jones

[11] Patent Number: **5,975,892**[45] Date of Patent: **Nov. 2, 1999****[54] PNEUMATIC FLASH CALCINER
THERMALLY INSULATED IN FEED
STORAGE SILO**

[76] Inventor: **Michael Andrew Jones**, 3915 N.
Campbell Ave., #2-62, Tucson, Ariz.
85719

[21] Appl. No.: **09/199,908**[22] Filed: **Nov. 25, 1998**[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **F27B 15/00**[52] U.S. Cl. **432/58; 432/106; 432/14**[58] Field of Search **432/58, 106, 14****[56] References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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*Primary Examiner—Teresa Walberg**Assistant Examiner—Jiping Lu**Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Antonio R. Durando***ABSTRACT**

A self-contained calcination plant is enclosed in a feed-storage silo. The plant consists of a vertical reactor, a separation cyclone and a pair of heat exchangers connected by appropriate piping and immersed in the feed material stored in powdery form in the silo. A positive displacement blower creates an air stream that is preheated in one of the heat exchangers and fed in part to a gas burner and in part to a feed pipe at the bottom of the reactor. The feed material is kept in a fluidized state in the silo by air heated in the other heat exchanger and blown upward from the bottom of the storage compartment, from where the material is dropped into the feed pipe through rotary valves prior to injection into the reactor. The feed pipe is connected tangentially to the reactor so as to produce an upward swirling flow around the burner's flame. The fluidized reaction products are passed through a cyclone to separate the calcined oxides from the hot gases, which are then fed serially through the heat exchangers to preheat the process air used for the blower and the storage compartment. The solid product is recovered from the bottom of the cyclone. The entire plant is enclosed in the silo and, during operation, all units are immersed in the fluidized hot feed material that provides excellent heat transfer among all components and a sufficiently uniform temperature in the reactor to produce optimal calcination.

19 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets